

Amdt. dated January 30, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 30, 2003 and the office
action mailed on February 17, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed on October 30, 2003 restricted the application into two groups and required confirmation of the elected group. The office action initially rejected claim 3 as anticipated by US patent 6,330,602 to Law and claim 4 as unpatentable under 35 USC §103 in view of Law in combination with US patent 5,774,660 to Brendel. The office action further rejected claims 5-9, 22, and 24-32 as anticipated by US patent 5,371,852 to Attanasio. Furthermore, it rejected claim 23 as being unpatentable over Attanasio under 35 USC §103. These issues are addressed below. This response is also filed in response to the office action mailed on February 17, 2004.

Restriction Requirement

As requested by the office action, it is confirmed that claims 3-4, 5-9, 22-26, 27-29, and 30-32 were elected with traverse in the telephone conversation with the examiner. Furthermore, the non-elected claims 33-40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, as they may be pursued via a continuation application.

Issues in Regard to Claims 3-4

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,330,602 issued to Law et al. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Law in view of U.S. Patent 5,774,660 issued to Brendel et al.

The office action cited Law as teaching the element of "**including said port identifier as part of said address.**" The office action cited Law at col. 4, line 60 through col. 5, line 9 and col. 5, lines 42-50, and col. 6 lines 25-31. In reviewing these cited sections of Law, there is no disclosure of "**including said port identifier as part of said address..**" These cited portions do not teach that a port identifier is included as part of an address. Rather, they refer to the creation of a table at the "depot" mentioned in the Law reference. The table is not the same as an address. Namely, there is no way for the table to be inserted as part of the address string. The last element of claim 3 clearly recites "**addressing a data provider device while including**

said port identifier as part of an address string." Since the Law reference does not teach inserting the port information into the address string, it does not satisfy either of these two elements of claim 3.

Claim 4 is dependent upon claim 3. Therefore, it is allowable for the same reason that claim 3 is allowable.

Issues in Regard to Claims 5-9, 22 and 24-32

Claims 5-9, 22 and 24-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,371,852 issued to Attanasio et al.

Claims 5, 6, 8, 22, 23, 24, 27, 30, and 32 have been amended to clarify the claim language by reciting an "application-level protocol identifier". The Attanasio reference does not teach the use of application level protocol identifiers. Rather, it deals with protocols at lower layers. For example, the office action refers to Figures 3A-3E. However, these Figures discuss no details of the application layer. Rather, they refer instead to the IP layer, and the UDP or TCP layer. No details of addressing used at the application-level are shown. Thus, Attanasio does not teach all the elements of the claims in claims 5-9, 22, and 24-32.

Furthermore, claim 8 has been amended further to clarify that the recited elements are coupled as an address string. The Attanasio reference does not teach the claimed elements coupled as an address string.

Issues in Regard to Claim 23

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Attanasio. Claim 23 is dependent upon rejected claim 22. For the same reasons that claim 22 is allowable, claim 23 is also allowable.

Appl. No. 09/664,179

PATENT

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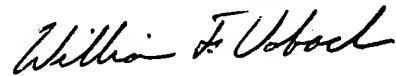
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments

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